

Andrea Norris Speaks at the 2020 FedHealthIT Innovation Awards Digital Event

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

On June 4, 2020, CIT Director and NIH Chief Information Officer Andrea Norris spoke at the [2020 FedHealthIT Innovation Awards](#) – Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) event. Over 150 senior federal and industry health IT executives joined the digital event.

Norris participated on a keynote panel, alongside fellow HHS colleagues, where they discussed their respective agency's COVID-19 efforts and IT priorities for FY 2020 and FY 2021.

During the panel, Norris' remarks highlighted how technology played a critical role in NIH's COVID-19 response by enabling a seamless transition to maximum telework and the creation of new COVID-19 initiatives. Additionally, she discussed NIH's plans to continue investing in its infrastructure to support the NIH mission.

"Today's innovations are always tomorrow's legacy, and it is critical that we continuously invest in technology," said Norris. Because of NIH's continuous investment in collaboration and virtual meeting capabilities, it has held more than 350,000 virtual meetings with more than 1.5 million participants between March and June 2020.

Two COVID-19 initiatives now underway at NIH include the [Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines \(ACTIV\)](#), which is a private-public partnership to develop a coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding development of the most promising treatments and vaccines, and the [Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics Tech \(RADx Tech\)](#), which supports the development and commercialization of innovative technologies to increase testing capacity.

Other panelists included Amy Abernethy, Principal Deputy Commissioner and Acting Chief Information Officer, FDA; Jose Arrieta, Chief Information Officer, HHS; Chris Chilbert, Chief Information Officer, OIG, HHS; Suzi Connor, Chief Information Officer, CDC; and Vid Desai, Chief Technology Officer, FDA.